

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-07

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:AATHIBAULT,JR.:JES
APPROVED BY P:MR. HABIB
NEA:ADUBS
S/S:MR. SHANKLE

-----060403 045996 /73

R 052204Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI ROUTINE

S E C R E T STATE 049690

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY
HABIB

1. SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE CALLED ON UNDER
SECRETARY HABIB MARCH 2 SAYING THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRU-
CTION FROM PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE TO REVIEW INDIAN
OCEAN MATTERS WITH THE USG PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S DEPAR-
TURE FOR MOSCOW. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS OF NEA
WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

2. KANAKARATNE OPENED BY REVIEWING MRS.BANDARANAIKE'S
LONG-STANDING INVOLVEMENT WITH THE INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE
CONCEPT WHICH WHEN FIRST INTRODUCED WAS FOCUSED ON PROBLEM
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OF FOREIGN "BASES" IN INDIAN OCEAN. MORE RECENTLY, HOWEVER
CONCEPT GAINED GREATER FLEXIBILITY DURING THE COLOMBO
NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT WHEN LANGUAGE RELATING TO FOREIGN "PRE-
SENCE" IN THE REGION WAS ADOPTED. KANAKARATNE WENT ON TO
REFER TO VARIOUS PARALLEL PROPOSALS IN U.S. SENATE CALLING
FOR BILATERAL U.S.-USSR DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT ACHIEVING
MUTUAL RESTRAINT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AS PART OF A BROADER

DETENTE EFFORT BY BOTH SUPERPOWERS. KANAKARATNE STATED THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO MEET THE CONCERNS

OF THE INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL STATES AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD INCLUDE INDIAN OCEAN MATTERS ON HIS MOSCOW AGENDA.

3. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB REPLIED THAT WE WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSING INDIAN OCEAN QUESTIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. HABIB ADDED THAT HE COULD NOT GO INTO SPECIFICS BUT THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING ON THIS SUBJECT, YET ANY EFFORT BY THE U.S. WOULD BE MADE IN GOOD FAITH, AND IN THIS CONTEXT THE U.S. WAS WELL AWARE OF LITTORAL STATE VIEWS. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE U.S. CONTINUED TO HAVE GRAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE IOPZ IDEA AND CITED OUR OBJECTION TO THE RIGHT OF LITTORALS TO DECLARE A LEGAL REGIME FOR THE HIGH SEAS.

4. KANAKARATNE ALSO RAISED THE FORTHCOMING NEW DELHI MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE STATED THAT SRI LANKA DID NOT INTEND TO RAISE INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES AT NEW DELHI BUT COULD NOT SPEAK FOR OTHER PARTICIPANTS (NOTABLY INDIA). HABIB EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT SRI LANKA WOULD CONTINUE TO BE A VOICE OF MODERATION AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED BUT ALSO ASSURED KANAKARATNE THAT WE WOULD INFORM OUR FRIENDS PRIOR TO THE MEETING IF SOMETHING USEFUL COULD BE DONE OR SAID ON INDIAN OCEAN QUESTIONS.
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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